

State constitution. Two hundred years of subjugation and oppression, of bondage and tyranny, serve as a reminder to all of us now of the importance of freedom and equality.

Although Maryland was a slave State, it did not secede from the Union. Marylanders' contributions to the Union cause and the abolitionist movement did much to secure the abolition of slavery. Harriet Tubman, who was born Araminta Ross in Dorchester County, freed countless slaves from bondage and was the first woman to lead an armed assault in the Civil War. Frederick Douglass, who was born Frederick Augustus Bailey in Talbot County, escaped slavery and went on to become one of the foremost leaders of the abolitionist movement. These heroic Marylanders dedicated their lives to the emancipation of all slaves and the empowerment of African Americans.

Earlier this year, we commemorated the 40th anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. His legacy remains with us as we continue to pursue equality and justice wherever disparities exist, whether in the economic, educational, housing, or health care arenas. It is our duty to eradicate discrimination in all its insidious forms. Our concerted efforts will be necessary to wipe out racial intolerance, and the strength of the Nation depends on the success of these efforts.

Today, on this 143rd anniversary of the first Juneteenth, another historic event will take place. The first African-American woman to represent Maryland in the U.S. Congress, DONNA EDWARDS, will be sworn in this afternoon. It is my honor, on this historic day, to call upon my colleagues to join me in celebrating Juneteenth and those who made this day possible.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JUNE SALANDER

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to June Salander of Rutland, VT. On June 28, 2008, June will celebrate her 100th birthday.

June Salander has led a remarkable life. Like many Jewish immigrants, she came to the United States via Ellis Island in 1920 after a journey from Ros, Poland, making the trip with her mother, brother, and sister. Family and a supportive Jewish community were always positioned as cornerstones of June's upbringing. In 1941 she married her husband Lew Salander and moved to Rutland, VT, where she has remained an active community member ever since. A strong believer in the idea that it takes a village to raise a child, June has lent her time volunteering at the Rutland Hospital and teaching Hebrew school classes. June has remained an active citizen into her golden years, earning her real estate license at the age of 62 and taking up tennis at the impressive age of 73. Her

commitment to education and community outreach expands to the home with June's famous cooking. June warms the homes and lives of others with her legendary apple strudel which she has shared through cooking lessons. She continues to inspire with her dedication to continual learning and improvement.

June Salander inspires with her energy and enthusiasm within the religious community as well. The Rutland Jewish Center has remained an integral part of her social and cultural life. June's daughter, Menasha, accurately describes the center as June's living room, kitchen, dining room, and backyard. Deeply rooted community involvement remains a core value, and to further uphold and solidify the Jewish tradition, June was Bat Mitzvahed at the extraordinary age of 89. It is believed that June is the oldest Rutland resident to complete the significant ceremony. Her commitment to observing Judaism and keeping tradition alive through education is a landmark of encouragement and pride for the Jewish community. I congratulate June Salander as she reaches yet another remarkable milestone, her 100th birthday. The message she has instilled in others through a lifetime of active citizenship is commendable. I am confident that June's spiritually fulfilling and publicly active life will continue to inspire others for years to come.

On a personal note, my wife Marcelle and I have cherished her friendship for a third of a century, as we did that of her wonderful husband. •

CELEBRATING WAHIAWA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S CENTENNIAL

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Wahiawa community as it marks the centennial of Wahiawa Elementary School. Located in central Oahu, Wahiawa is home to one of Hawaii's first pineapple plantations. As the industry grew, so did Wahiawa and the needs of its residents.

Wahiawa Elementary opened in 1908, on Lehua Street with one teacher, Mrs. H.C. Brown, and 56 students. In 1924, Wahiawa Elementary expanded to six classrooms, only to be closed during World War II. In 1950, Wahiawa Elementary reopened with a new building and a new location on Glenn Street.

Today, Wahiawa Elementary has an enrollment of approximately 500 and includes a center for medically fragile students, a teacher training center for students with autism, and a preschool. Wahiawa Elementary students have a 95 percent attendance rate.

For 100 years, Wahiawa Elementary has been a focal point for Wahiawa, providing a strong foundation for the community's children and families. There are now several other elementary schools in the Wahiawa area due to dramatic population growth on the island of Oahu, but Wahiawa Elementary remains a special place. In under-

standing what this elementary school represents to its community, the school's motto is fitting: Ku lokahi ka 'ohana 'o Wahiawa! Stand in unison the family of Wahiawa! •

IN HONOR OF ALFREDO NÚÑEZ

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to celebrate the life and work of a dedicated educator. This month, Alfredo Núñez will retire as principal of the Agassiz Elementary School of Jamaica Plain, MA, and as he prepares to do so I am proud to join with his colleagues, friends, and family in celebrating more than 30 years of service to Boston Public Schools.

Born in Caracas, Venezuela, Núñez immigrated to the United States in 1963. He attended high school in Jersey City, NJ, and subsequently moved to New Brunswick, NJ, where he graduated from Rutgers University.

Following graduation, he moved to Boston where he became a U.S. citizen and obtained his master's degree from Boston University in bilingual education. Núñez then became a fifth grade teacher at the Agassiz, where he has worked ever since. One of the largest elementary schools in Boston, with over 800 students and 100-plus faculty and staff members, the Agassiz is a diverse and dynamic school with a large bilingual student population. Núñez relished the opportunity to not only teach but also to learn from the thousands of students, parents, and teachers he has worked with over the years.

During his tenure as principal, the Agassiz has garnered numerous awards and accolades for its drive to achieve excellence in education. Núñez has encouraged partnerships with institutes of higher education such as the University of Massachusetts and Harvard University, as well as art and cultural institutions like the Boston Ballet, to try to expand his students' horizons. He has also worked to grow parent participation within the school to foster a more community oriented approach to learning.

I am proud to pay tribute to the service of Alfredo Núñez to the Agassiz and to the children of Boston. I wish Alfredo the very best as he looks back on so many achievements and contributions to the community and begins this new chapter in life. •

HONORING J.R. SIMPLOT

• Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, in 1923, a 14-year-old boy dropped out of school in Declo, ID, and began working as a potato sorter. He eventually became a potato and hog farmer, a forester, a miner, an entrepreneur, an industrialist, an investor, a billionaire, and today—he is a legend.

John Richard Simplot was born in Dubuque, IA, in 1909—but his family moved to Idaho when he was young, and Idaho remained his home. At an early age, J.R. knew school was not for him, so he dropped out and began